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QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Progress report of the Secretary-General

1. In my last report (A/45/507), dated 17 September 1990, I indicated that, in the framework of the substantive talks that Indonesia and Portugal have been holding under my auspices, the two sides were considering the terms of reference of and modalities for a visit to East Timor by a delegation from the Portuguese Parliament. I further reported that considerable progress had been achieved in that regard.

2. During the course of ~~the past year~~, I and Under-Secretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed, who has been assisting me in these endeavours, have continued our consultations ~~with the two Governments~~. Discussions have been held with the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Portugal and with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, as well as with other officials from both Governments concerned with the issue. In the course of those consultations, both sides have reiterated their determination to seek a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution through continuing dialogue and negotiation.

3. At a ~~meeting held under my chairmanship on 27 June 1991~~, Indonesia and Portugal ~~reached agreement~~, ad referendum, on a number of pending issues related to the terms of reference of ~~the proposed visit~~. That agreement, a copy of which is annexed to the present report, was subsequently approved by the competent authorities of the two sides.

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* A/46/150.

4. Since then, three rounds of the substantive talks have been held to consider the practical arrangements for the visit of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation to East Timor. In the course of those talks, the Indonesian side confirmed its readiness to receive a small advance team in order to prepare the logistical and technical aspects of the visit of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation. It is foreseen that the visit of the advance team would take place a few weeks prior to that of the delegation of the Portuguese Parliament, subject to agreement being achieved on the itinerary and other practical details. I will ~~continue, within the context of my good offices,~~ to make every effort to assist in the realization of that visit, in the hope that it can help to create an atmosphere conducive to a comprehensive and ~~internationally acceptable~~ solution to the question of ~~East Timor~~.

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ANNEX

Terms of reference of the visit to East Timor by a delegation from the Portuguese Parliament

1. With a view to facilitating the achievement of a comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor, Indonesia and Portugal have agreed to a visit by a Portuguese parliamentary delegation to East Timor. The terms of reference, modalities and timing of such a visit were decided in the course of the talks held under the auspices of the Secretary-General. The realization of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation visit, in all its aspects, shall in no way be construed as prejudicing the respective positions of principle of the parties with regard to the substance of the question.

I. OBJECTIVE

2. The objective of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation visit is to obtain first-hand information on the situation in the territory, on the understanding that the visit will not be investigative in nature.

II. COMPOSITION

3. The delegation will be composed of 13 Portuguese Parliamentarians, accompanied by 13 Portuguese officials and 10 Portuguese journalists. The list of the delegation and those accompanying it will be submitted by Portugal to Indonesia at least three weeks prior to the commencement of the visit.

III. INDONESIAN JOURNALISTS

4. Indonesia may designate 10 Indonesian journalists to accompany the delegation.

IV. INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS

5. The Portuguese parliamentary delegation will be joined by 12 international journalists, 6 selected by each side. Each side will communicate its list of international journalists to the other at least three weeks prior to the commencement of the visit.

V. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6. The Portuguese parliamentary delegation will also be joined by representatives of the Secretary-General, dispatched in the exercise of his good offices.

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IX. PREPARATORY STEPS

15. An advance team will travel to East Timor to prepare the practical arrangements for the visit of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation. The advance team will be lead by a representative of the Secretary-General and will include two representatives from the Indonesian side and two representatives from the Portuguese side.

VI. ACCESS

7. The question of visa formalities for the Portuguese parliamentary delegation and those accompanying it is treated in the unilateral declaration submitted by Indonesia and attached to the present document as appendix I.

8. On its way to Dili, the Portuguese parliamentary delegation will make a stop-over at Jakarta airport and the leader of the delegation will accompany the representatives of the Secretary-General to pay a courtesy call on the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives. A unilateral declaration submitted by Portugal in that regard is attached to the present document as appendix II.

VII. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND OF CONTACTS

9. The Portuguese parliamentary delegation shall have unhindered access to all parts of the territory, within the context of the agreed objective of the visit, in conditions of peace and security.

10. The Portuguese parliamentary delegation shall be free to meet whomever it wishes and anyone who wishes to meet the Portuguese parliamentary delegation will be allowed to do so. No action, including of a security nature, may be taken by the Indonesian authorities that could prejudice any potential or actual contacts. Individuals who meet the Portuguese parliamentary delegation shall not be made to suffer any adverse consequences as a result of those contacts.

11. The visit of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation shall be undertaken on the basis of a predetermined but flexible itinerary and list of contacts. During the visit, the delegation may request that changes may be made to the itinerary and the list of contacts, provided they are of a reasonable nature, taking logistical constraints into account.

12. The Portuguese parliamentary delegation will provide its own interpreters and the contacts may be undertaken in private and on the basis of confidentiality.

13. Indonesia will extend full cooperation to the Portuguese parliamentary delegation and those accompanying it for the realization of the visit, in accordance with the principles defined above.

VIII. TIMING AND DURATION

14. The visit will take place during the dry season and will last for approximately 10 to 12 days.

APPENDIX I

Unilateral declaration by Indonesia concerning visa formalities

The Government of Indonesia believes that the visit by the Portuguese parliamentary delegation to East Timor upon the invitation of the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives will constitute an important step towards the achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the question of East Timor acceptable to all parties concerned. In order to facilitate the visit, therefore, and out of respect for the noble efforts by the Secretary-General - made under his general mandate accorded by the Charter of the United Nations - to promote the reaching of an agreement between Indonesia and Portugal on the modalities and timing of the visit, the Government of Indonesia - in the exercise of its sovereignty - has decided to waive visa requirements for the members of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation and those accompanying it.

APPENDIX II

Unilateral declaration by Portugal concerning the stop-over in Jakarta

The stop-over in Jakarta and the visit of the leader of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation to the Indonesian House of Representatives, accompanying the representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to pay a courtesy call on the Speaker, constitute only a gesture of good will testifying to the continuing availability of Portugal to achieve, through dialogue and negotiation with all parties directly concerned and under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the question of East Timor.